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Daily Devotional - Monday, June 10, 2019 Feelings of Inferiority

JUNE 10TH 2019 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Monday, June 10, 2019 Feelings of Inferiority

Ephesians 2:10

Early in my life, I experienced some feelings of inferiority. Because we struggled financially, my mother and I didn't live in the "right" places, and I didn't wear the "right" clothes. Even in school, I felt that I did not measure up academically to the other kids. The sense of failure and embarrassment at not being good enough was devastating to me.

The misery of inferiority is never what God intends for His children. Its seed usually takes root in the impressionable hearts of the young and thrives in an atmosphere of comparison. This kind of emotional baggage can have debilitating and enslaving ramifications in every area of life. Feelings of inadequacy may cause avoidance of healthy challenges; low self-esteem cripples personal relationships; and comparison steals contentment.

We need to understand how God sees us. Then, when feelings of inferiority come, we can cling to His accurate assessment rather than our own faulty one. He says we are His workmanship—His masterpieces. Each person is thoughtfully designed by the Creator for His purpose. The differences that cause us to make comparisons and feel discouraged are the very qualities that the Lord created to bring Him glory.

Feelings of inferiority are a hindrance to becoming the people that the heavenly Father designed us to be and a deterrent to fulfilling His purpose for our lives. When it comes to our value, we either accept the truth of His appraisal or decide not to believe Him and instead rely on our own feelings. What will your choice be?

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Daily Devotional - Friday, June 7, 2019 - God's Love Comforts Us

JUNE 07TH 2019 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Friday, June 7, 2019 - God's Love Comforts Us

Romans 8:38-39

Our heavenly Father wants us to know how much He loves and cares for us. He has made this clear through ...

Revelation of Himself. In Scripture, we learn that the Creator made us in His image and has a purpose for our life. We also discover that sin has separated us from the Lord, but He has a solution to our problem.

Provision of a Savior. We were trapped by our sinful nature and unable to free ourselves. That left us helpless and lost, like sheep without a shepherd (Matt. 9:36). Worse still, we were under a sentence of eternal death—separation from the Lord forever. Because of our Father’s great love for mankind, He sent His only Son to bear the penalty we deserved and to give us eternal life (Rom. 6:23). Jesus rescued us from slavery to sin and reconciled us to the Father. What we could never do for ourselves, He did for us. His provision is free to us but costly to Him.

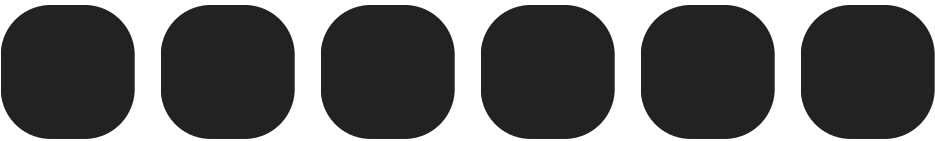
Adoption of believers. When we place our trust in Jesus Christ as our Savior, we become children of God. There’s no longer a separation between Him and us; instead of enemies, we are family. His indwelling Holy Spirit serves as both evidence that we belong to God and assurance of His unending love.

The heavenly Father’s care for us shines brightly through the cross at Calvary—it was because of love that He sent Jesus Christ to earth to die in our place (1 John 4:9-10). Once we accept the gift of salvation through Christ, nothing can separate us from God’s love. What a comfort that is in times of need.

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Daily Devotional - Thursday, June 6, 2019 - Goal Setting: The Key to Success

JUNE 06TH 2019 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Thursday, June 6, 2019 - Goal Setting: The Key to Success

Philippians 3:7-14

What three goals would you set for your life if you knew that you could achieve them? Would any of them be spiritual in nature? The apostle Paul was a goal-oriented person (even before he became a Christian), and he understood which pursuits were the most important. His chief ambition was to know Christ and His resurrection power, along with the fellowship of His suffering (Phil. 3:10).

We'd all do well to adopt these goals, but they sound so broad. How do we put them into practice? First, it's important to comprehend that a goal is a purpose or direction toward which we work. This concept is fairly easy to understand when we're talking about specific objectives like going to bed earlier or washing dishes every day, but what steps would you need to take in order to achieve spiritual goals like Paul's?

Success requires choosing steps that are specific, reasonable, and measurable. For example, if you want to know Christ more intimately, you might start by spending 15 minutes each day praying and reading His Word. After developing your plan and the steps to accomplish it, put your desire into action. If you don't take the necessary steps, it will simply remain a wish. No one develops intimacy with Christ through good intentions; it takes commitment, diligence, and perseverance.

If you feel as if your faith is lacking vitality, it may be that you've lost sight of your goal. No one intends to slip into complacency. But unless you set some specific goals and work to achieve them, you'll drift through life and miss the reward—knowing Christ intimately.

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Daily Devotional - Tuesday, June 4, 2019 - Does God Want You to Succeed?

JUNE 04TH 2019 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Tuesday, June 4, 2019 - Does God Want You to Succeed?

Proverbs 16:1-3

Is success a legitimate goal for believers? Is this something God wants for His children? The answers depend upon your definition of success. Many people define it as the achievement of wealth, prominence, or fame. If that's what you're seeking, then you are following the world's definition, not the Lord's.

In His eyes, true success begins internally—the first step is a relationship with Jesus, whereby you have trusted Him as Savior and are following Him obediently. His goal for you is ongoing growth in Christlike character and spiritual maturity, but that's not all. He also has some work for you to accomplish here on earth (Eph. 2:10). God planned these tasks specifically for you and designed them with your personality, talents, abilities, and spiritual gifts in mind. You could think of them as your unique calling and responsibility in life.

Genuine success involves doing what the Lord has called you to do, not just occasionally but continually. It has to do with persistence rather than perfection. When this is your definition of success, you can know that the Lord wants you to succeed. And He's committed to helping you become the person He designed you to be—and to accomplish the goals He's set for you.

The ultimate evaluation of our success will take place when we stand before God and give an account of our life (Rom. 14:12). Any self-centered earthly achievements will be left behind. But if we've lived by His definition of success, our treasure will await us in heaven—along with the words “Well done!”

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Daily Devotional - Monday, June 3, 2019 - Following in Christ's Footsteps

JUNE 03RD 2019 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Monday, June 3, 2019 - Following in Christ's Footsteps

Matthew 10:24-42

Much of Christianity has a distorted view of discipleship. In our desire to see more people come to Christ, we may be guilty of offering a gospel that emphasizes the benefits of following Jesus while avoiding any mention of the cost involved.

However, Jesus didn't shy away from speaking truth. He let people know that being His disciple would not be easy, because they'd be following in His footsteps. Since Christ didn't sail through life without challenges, why should we? Our goal should be to become like our Savior, and that means we must be willing to suffer to one degree or another.

Contrary to what many contemporary sermons suggest, following Jesus may not make your relationships better. It could become a source of contention because a true disciple's love, devotion, and loyalty to Christ supersedes every other relationship. If what a friend or family member desires contradicts what the Lord has commanded, then the choice must be to follow Christ rather than a loved one.

As Christians, we'll frequently be tempted to compromise in order to avoid misunderstanding, criticism, rejection, or persecution. But as Christ's followers, we are called to live a crucified life—and compromise undercuts the wholehearted nature of crucifixion. We cannot pursue the acceptance of the world and at the same time follow the Lord. Until we stand with both feet on

the side of obedience, we forfeit assurance of God’s peace and blessings.

Although discipleship is costly, the reward is great. Jesus promises to confess us as His own before God when we enter our heavenly home.

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